

August 15, 1975

Dr. Howard Goodman
Director
Special Programme for Research and
Training in Tropical Diseases
World Health Organization
1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland

Dear Howard,

I took some of the WHO technical reports on malaria with me on vacation and I noticed what may be no more than a curious coincidence about the negative correlation of worm infection and malaria which is documented in the attached notes.

Do you know if anyone has looked more specifically at what is involved here?

I realize that the low prevalence of *Plasmodium vivax* in West Africa might be related to a blood factor polymorphism. I do not know what the last word is on the specific factors that would distinguish that population from the East African.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL/rr
Enclosures